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REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in the above-identified application. Of these, claims 1-13 and 23-42 are allowed, claims 14-16 are rejected, and claims 17-22 are objected to. Applicant, having amended the application, respectfully requests reconsideration.

Amendments to the Specification and Figures

Applicant noted a number of minor and obvious typographical errors upon a careful review of the application. Many of these errors resulted from a word processor incorrectly interpreting a negative character as a dash, and consequently breaking alphanumeric symbols that include a negative character. The amendments are fully supported and do not add new matter.

Claim Objections

The examiner objected to claims 17-22 as being dependent upon rejected base claims. The examiner noted, however, that these claims would be allowable "if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims" (Office Action, page 3).

Claim 14, the base claim from claim 17, is amended to include the subject matter of claim 17: claim 17 is canceled. The objection to claim 17 should therefore be withdrawn. Claim 18 depends upon claim 14, and thus now includes the subject matter of claim 17. The objection to claim 18 should therefore be withdrawn.

Claim 19 is amended to include the text of original claim 14, from which claim 19 depended. The objection of claim 19

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should therefore be withdrawn. Claims 20-22 depend from claim 19, so the objections to those claims should also be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under \$102(e) as anticipated by Stojanovic et al. (2004/0203559), an application that names applicant as a co-inventor. Claim 14 is amended to include the language of original claim 17, which the examiner considered to be allowable (see Office Action, page 3). The rejection of claim 14 should therefore be withdrawn. Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 14, so the rejections of those claims should be withdrawn for the same reasons the rejection of claim 14 should be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1-13 and 23-42 are allowed. Claims 1 and 23 are nevertheless amended to correct a minor typographical error that is common to both claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes the pending claims to be in condition for allowance, and consequently requests the examiner issue a notice of allowance. If the examiner's next action is other than the allowance of the pending claims, the examiner is requested to call applicant's representative at (925) 621-2113.

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Respectfully submitted,

Arthur J. Behiel

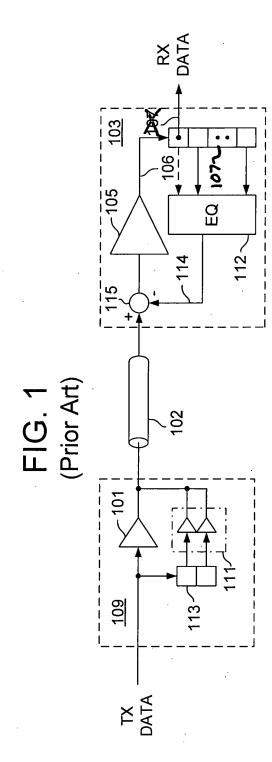
Attorney for Applicant

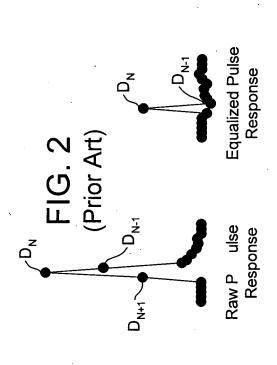
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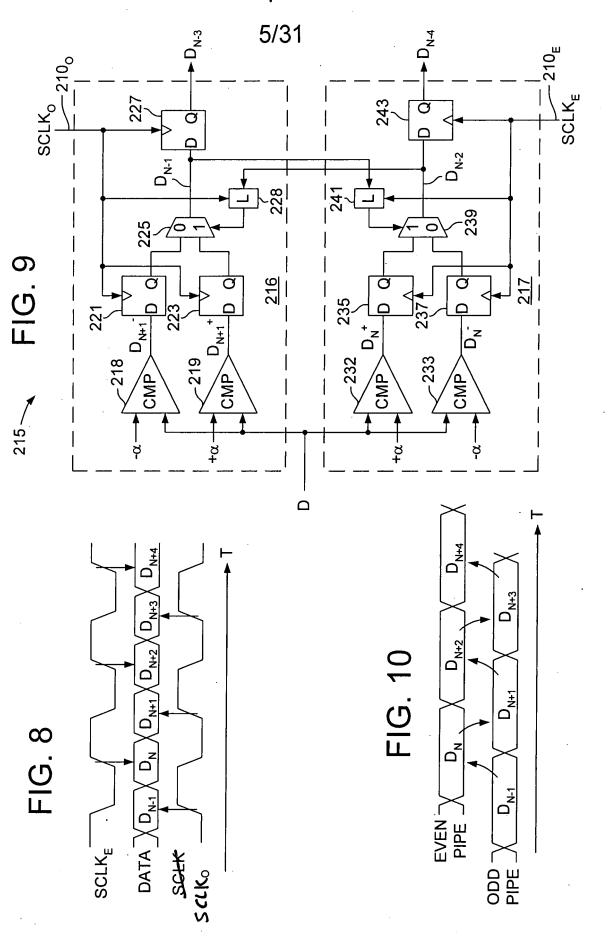


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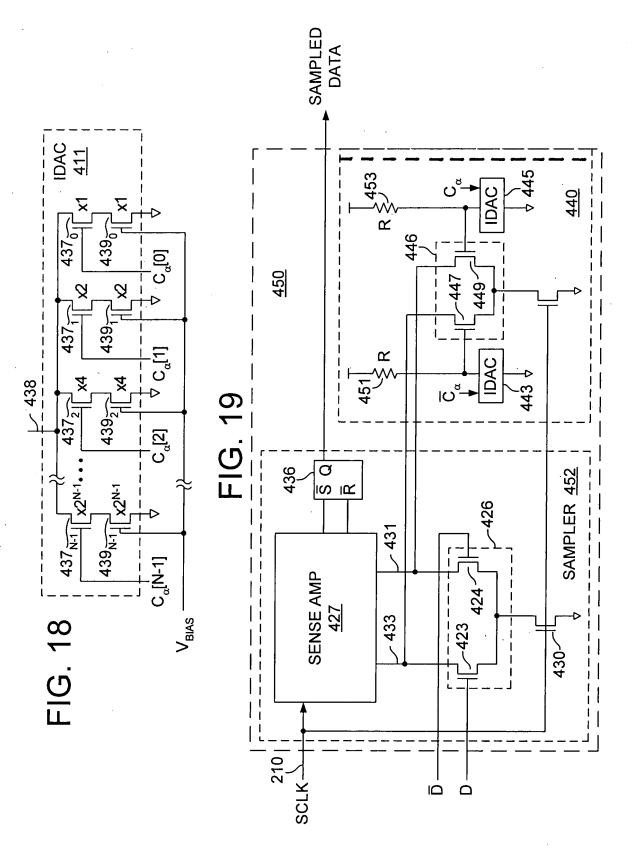


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FIG. 16 $c_{1-\alpha}$ $+ c_{1-\alpha}$ $+ c_{1-\alpha}$

Mark-up Sheet

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Amendments to the Figures

Please amend figures 1, 8, 15, 19, and 21 as indicated in red ink on an attached mark-up copy. Applicant has also included replacement sheets 1/31, 5/31, 9/31, 11/31, 13/31 in anticipation of the examiner approving the amendments.